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WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

by NOEL HUNT

We constantly learn of "bold new initiatives", "drives" and "crusades". All are sponsored by those professing to love the common man. All profess the most edifyingly altruistic aims. All will allegedly improve "the quality of life", whatever that may be. And almost all, if carefully examined, will be found to have the effect of leaving society weaker and less able to defend itself against the next assault — which is never long delayed.

As an example, consider the European Court. That no such Court should be allowed to control our own tribunals is neither here nor there. The Court does exist, and it does interfere in our affairs, as we learn from time to time. This Court hands down judgements on cases brought before it. These judgements are binding on our own Courts, which make obsequious haste to give effect to the judgements of an alien Bench.

Every judgement so far delivered by the European Court has reduced the power and authority of the State over its subjects. Every judgement has either strengthened an existing "right" or conceded a fresh one to the individual. Every judgement has left Authority, as personified in the State, weaker. Every ruling has left society less able to defend itself. Those who believe in what has been unkindly called the village idiot theory of history will of course accept that such things just happen. Yet it is at least possible that they are being made to happen, and by those who wish us ill.

We are told that more cases from Britain reach the European Court than from any other country. Litigation in Britain is so costly that most people will do almost anything to avoid it. Yet when a "human right" is in question, or an attempt has been made by authority to impose discipline then, miraculously, ample funds become available. Very ordinary people somehow find the money to fight a case up to the highest Court in the land, and thence to the European Court. Whence comes the money not ostensibly but in fact?

Another way by which those who wish us ill — and this is a surprisingly large percentage of the human race — attain their end is by deftly distracting attention from the main point to an irrelevant side issue. So much hullabaloo is then raised over the side issue that public attention is diverted from the real point.

Smoke And Smother

A classic case in point was seen recently. The Young Conservatives urged that water cannon and rubber bullets should be available to Police for use in riots. We may be sure that "concerned men of goodwill" are already mobilising for an attack on the principle of the use of rubber bullets — or indeed of almost anything else — against rioters. To the man of the Left there are of course no such things as rioters. To him, what to us looks like a riot is simply "a spontaneous and peaceful demonstration by workers and other progressive elements against fascist and neo-Nazi tendencies" on the part of the forces of the State.

So much smoke and smother will be generated over the argument about whether or not the Police should use rubber bullets that the real question will not be asked. That question is simply this: Why with real bullets available, are the Police being fobbed off with rubber bullets for use against well organised and skilfully manipulated rioters intent on killing or injuring them?

By concentrating attention on the argument that the use of rubber bullets is an intolerable instance of Police brutality which should probably be outlawed, those who wish us ill ensure that the organisers of riots and public violence can operate in reasonable safety and, what is equally important, will live to organise other riots on other days.

After long debate it will, no doubt, be accepted that rubber bullets may be used. But, of course, only under strictly regulated conditions. One is likely to

be that their use may only be authorised by someone sufficiently senior not to be facing the rioters. Another will almost certainly be that every case of use shall be subject to a rigorous public enquiry later. The reviewing body will no doubt consist of an Anglican clergyman of indeterminate sex and equally indeterminate principles, a couple of far-Left Labour politicians plus of course the inevitable self-selected "community leaders" (none of whom will be Caucasoid) together with "spokesmen for ethnic minorities." While the evidence is being taken "fearless and hard-hitting" talking heads on T.V. ("opinion formers") will "crusade" against what is pretty sure to be called "this reckless use of mindless violence by the forces of the State." Thus two ends will be attained, each leaving white society weaker and more vulnerable. One is that the use of such means is effectively outlawed by the conditions imposed. The other is that senior officers, watching a colleague being pilloried for his action will learn not to do likewise. He would be a bold man who authorised the use of rubber bullets knowing the ordeal in store for him for doing so.

The Young Conservatives are rightly concerned about law and order. However, they might be better advised to attempt to rid the Bench of some of its softer and wetter ornaments. A really useful exercise would be to study over a period of say three months the sentences passed by judicial officers. Armed with this information, they would be in an excellent position to petition for the removal of any judicial officer who seemed to think that his duty was to protect the criminal against society rather than vice versa.

All-Party Prattle

Another way in which society is weakened is to be found in the recent suggestion by the Parliamentary All-Party Penal Affairs Committee that the mandatory life sentence for murder should be scrapped.

Without doubt those who signed the report mean well, and are inspired by the highest and most humanitarian of motives. The only snag is, that like all men of the Left, they are liable to be led astray by a lump in the throat masquerading as a thought in the head.

An All-Party Parliamentary Group has a reassuring ring about it. Surely, one feels, every point of view must be represented in such a body? Thus many will be tempted to accept the Group's recommendation, since it can be represented as being that of a cross-section of all points of view. Unfortunately the facts do not support this optimistic view. All Parties in the present Parliament are left of centre to some degree. The so-called Conservatives are not in fact conservatives at all. So far as they are anything, they are crypto-socialists. All, from the sopping wet to the slightly moist, are "caring", "compassionate", anxious to display their "social consciences" and "commitment". Nowhere today do we hear the view — amply supported by the whole of history — that man is not a fallen angel but a risen ape.* Never are we told that what is needed is more discipline and less "compassion".

Another weakening proposal is the recent one that the oath to tell the truth taken by witnesses should be abolished. This suggestion is reported to have emanated from the Law Society, the Magistrates' Association and the Clerks' Society. On the face of it, in an increasingly pagan society like ours the proposal seems reasonable. Yet its acceptance would go far towards removing the cement which binds our society together.

It is held that the oath no longer has any binding power on most people. Therefore it is proposed to replace it by a simple promise to tell the truth. Why a promise should be more effective in making a witness truthful we are not told. Dare one suggest that what is needed is rigorous application of the law about perjury, with the infliction of swingeing penalties for lying? Though this would no doubt be unacceptable to those who make a cult of softness, it may well be the answer. The knowledge that a lie would bring a couple of months in solitary coupled with spare diet would do much to restore the sanctity of the oath in the eyes of witnesses.

Those in the legal world who urge the proposal upon us are undoubtedly right when they say that to most people today the oath carries little weight. What is disturbing is to see it reported that the head of the Anglican clergy himself is "to announce whether or not the Church of England will back the proposal." That is all. There is no attempt to deny the truth of the allegation, no promise of reform, not a hint that the leaders of the Church may be at fault. Perhaps it is no more than can be expected of a church which has long preached the social gospel rather than that of Christ, which thinks more of "consensus" and "ecumenism" than of its flock. The Church is said to be "keenly aware of the criticism that Britain is becoming a secular society." What they do not seem to be aware of is the contempt which a great many people feel for church leaders, adequately paid and comfortably housed to preach the gospel of Christ, who take the money and don't do the job. One looks in vain for a man with sufficient courage to call these trendy clerics to

repentance and to scourge them to what seems to be their plain duty: that of reconverting England to Christianity. Until this happens the churches will not be full and the clergy will be largely despised.

From long experience and deep knowledge of humanity the Book of Common Prayer tells us of the "envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness" which characterises the common man. This is without doubt more realistic than the common current dogma which holds man to be innately good, made bad only by his environment. We have only to recall the "envy, hatred and malice and all uncharitableness" daily displayed all round us to see how infinitely harmful to us all would be the implementation of the proposal to dispense with the judicial oath.

The proposal to ban the oath is typical of liberal thinking. We have foolishly allowed the "concerned" and the "compassionate" to bring about the Permissive Society under which we suffer today. As a result that ancient and universal sanction, the oath, has lost its binding force. The liberal solution is to abolish the oath. It should be rather to take steps to restore its sanctity.

That the oath today carries little weight with many does not mean that the institution itself is bad. It merely means that the Church, whose task and duty is to inculcate Christian beliefs — including the binding power of an oath — has neglected its duty.

The remedy lies not in doing away with the oath, but in disciplining the wayward clergy and in converting the Church's flock to Christianity. Are you listening, Your Grace?

* A fallen angel is far more in need of discipline than any 'risen' ape, supposing there were such a being! — *Editor.*

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Gleanings from the Candour Press Desk

PERNICIOUS PAMPHLET

A pamphlet on "gay and lesbian rights," produced by the Greater London Council and the GLC Gay Working Party, has been submitted to Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, as an alleged example of classroom indoctrination.

The colourful pamphlet, called "Changing the World," calls on schools to acknowledge "the work and achievement of lesbians and gays" and adds "Lesbian and gay pupils and students should see reflected in the curriculum the richness and diversity of homosexual experience and not just negative images."

It adds that such a curriculum would be of benefit to all pupils and also calls for the involvement of parents. "Lesbian and gay parents of pupils and school students should have equal rights with heterosexual parents to make their contribution.

Pupils should be given as much right to lodge complaints by homosexuals about heterosexuals as there was to complain about racism and sexism.

"Young people have a right to be brought up to understand that they may experience homosexual or heterosexual feelings or both and that either or both are to be welcomed as having potential to enrich their lives and those of the people around them."

Daily Telegraph, January 20th.

THE HIDDEN HAND

Conversation has left me in no doubt that many black Americans, even when they deplore or ridicule Farrakhan, harbour an animus against Jews because they have been the friendliest whites. Of the three civil rights volunteers who were barbarously murdered in Mississippi, two (Schwirner and Goldman) were Jews. Of the white activists in the days of CORE and SNCC, the overwhelming majority were Jewish. The same went for the successor New Left, and for those who were not activists but fundraisers and editorialists. What many blacks seem to be saying is that they are fed up with being told how much Jews have done for them.

The Spectator, January 25th.

SERVICE CHARGE

When the Israelis forced down the Libyan executive jet which was supposed to be carrying George Habash, it was the second such operation to capture the Palestinian PFLP leader and the second time they ended up with egg on their faces.

The last time they tried to "bag" Habash, en route from Beirut to Baghdad, he cancelled his flight due to a chest pain and their commandos stormed his plane in vain.

But I hope the Israelis retain their sense of humour and send a bill to the Libyans for refuelling the aircraft as they did after their previous attempt.

Daily Telegraph, February 7th.

DOING THE LAMBETH WALK — IN CIRCLES

Parks and pools may be given tongue-twisting names in honour of eminent blacks by the ruling Labour group on Lambeth council — a proposal described yesterday as crazy by Tory critics.

Among the planned 28 changes are:

Zephanie Mothopeng Park — better known as Brockwell Park in Herne Hill, but now to bear the name of an anti-apartheid leader serving 30 years in a Soweto jail.

Mangaliso Sobukwe Pool — Streatham baths to the locals, who may not have heard of the late founder of the Pan African Congress.

Sharpurji Saklatvala, a Communist in the 1920s, who gives his name to Myatts Fields, a park in Brixton.

Councillor Patrica Jenkyns, chairman of Hern Hill Society's history committee, said she was "absolutely incensed about the name change."

"What is going to happen to our local heritage and history," she asked. The first reference to Brockwell Park was in 1800 when it was known as Brockwell Common.

Daily Telegraph, February 7th.

YET ANOTHER MINORITY GROUP

An international dwarf-throwing competition in West Germany next month has been cancelled following protest from small people, Mr. Jonny Carroll, director of the entertainments agency responsible for organising the contest, said yesterday.

Dwarf-throwing started in Australia a few years ago as a gimmick to attract customers to bars and next month's competition was planned as an entertainment for British troops based in West Germany. The Hamburg-based Organisation of People of Restricted Growth protested about what it called a macabre spectacle.

Daily Telegraph, February 18th.

RISING TIDE OF COLOUR

California has become a new melting-pot with a racial mixture as exciting, and perhaps as explosive, as New York's 100 years ago. Except for Mississippi, which has had a black majority (albeit a very subservient one) since the 1930s, and Hawaii, California will be the first of the United States in which less than half the population is of European stock.

In 1950 California had a population of 10 million, of whom 87 per cent were of European origin. By 2010 it will have 36 million people, 53 per cent of them black, Asian or Latino (Latino has replaced Hispanic as the OK word for Spanish-speakers). The removal of ethnic quotas from US immigration policy in 1965 transformed the country's racial intake. Asians-Indians, Indochinese, Japanese, Koreans and many others — jumped from 6 per cent to 36 per cent of new arrivals, and Latinos (officially) from 21 per cent to 41 per cent.

The Times, March 12th.

BLACK COUNTRY BALONEY

Land of Hope and Glory may be banned from a town's Festival of Remembrance because a Labour committee chairman thinks it is racist.

Phil Richards, a 61-year-old former guardsman, says the words of the hymn 'encourage imperialist expansion which has no part in our lives today.'

Colleagues plan to try to out-vote Mr. Richards at the next meeting of the committee planning Wolverhampton's 1986 Remembrance festival. But the councillor was ready for battle yesterday at his home in Bilston, West Midlands.

'I was not nominated as chairman to make friends,' he said. 'I can understand the views of those who oppose me. But I would not wish to have the racist song repeated at any council-sponsored event within our multi-racial community.'

Mr. Richards who enlisted in the Coldstream Guards in 1943 and served for nine years without promotion, said:

'To older members of ethnic groups whose viewpoint of Empire is different from our own, it is downright offensive. I still wear my Guards brigade tie with pride, but we must move with the times and to many in our society now, this is a deeply insensitive song.'

Daily Mail, March 17th.

N.H.S. INFANTICIDE

Shocked nurses saw a baby girl 'kicking arms and legs vigorously and breathing' after an abortion went wrong, it is alleged.

The pressure group LIFE says that as there was no incubator in the ward the nurses wrapped the child up and one of them ran to the baby unit at the other end of the hospital, a distance of about a quarter of a mile.

The organisation, which campaigns for the unborn and newly-born child, add that she was still alive when she arrived at the unit but was reported dead ten minutes after the birth.

Detectives have now been called in to investigate circumstances surrounding the birth of the 10oz. baby, judged to be at 20 weeks' gestation, at the Mayday Maternity Hospital in Thornton Heath, South London. Senior staff, a doctor and nurses will be questioned.

The Director of Public Prosecutions will be asked to decide whether staff should face charges. If charges are brought, it is likely to lead to a test case in the courts.

The incident happened, according to LIFE, in February about 12 hours after the baby's mother was admitted for an abortion using a drug called Prostaglandin to cause her to go into premature labour: In such cases the baby is normally born dead.

But on this occasion, says LIFE administrator, Mrs. Nuela Scarisbrick, the child was seen by nurses 'to be kicking arms and legs vigorously and to be breathing.'

A LIFE spokesman said yesterday: 'This is an extremely worrying case which we hope the DPP will closely examine.

'Incidents like this, in which nurses and doctors suddenly start trying to save the life of a child whom they have just been doing all they can to destroy, shows what an appalling muddle we are in.'

Daily Mail, March 19th.

MILITANT A MERE SYMPTOM

Militant is only part of the problem. In the past five years many extremist groups have infiltrated the Labour Party. In a Fabian tract published in 1981, David Webster — a Labour Party member — calculated that there were at least 50,000 Trotskyist activists in the country, most of them in the Labour Party. In the same year, an article in the *New Statesman* pointed out that to win a majority among Labour Party constituency activists required only about 40,000 people. As Paul Foot put it in *Socialist Worker* in May 1981: "Large numbers of Socialists have joined the Labour Party, which is being transformed before our very eyes."

These people have not gone away. On the contrary, they have gone from strength to strength and caused a shift in Labour's centre of gravity. Since the last general election, 37 Labour MPs have either decided not to stand again or have been de-selected. Of these, 22 could be described as centre right, nine as soft left, and six as hard left. Their replacements can be categorized thus: centre right three, soft left 16, hard left 18.

The Times, April 7th.

PERISH WHITE AUSTRALIA

Australia is to almost double its intake of migrants over the next decade.

The Cabinet has agreed to a proposal by Mr. Chris Hurford, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affiairs, to take an extra 11,000 migrants in the next financial year, meaning a total of 95,000.

The Government has also adopted in principle a long-term plan to lift immigration to its post-war boom level of between 160,000 and 170,000 people a year.

The new category will increase eligible migrants by extending the definition of the family to include such relatives as nephews and nieces.

It is not clear who will benefit from the new definition, but recent arrivals, such as the Indo-Chinese, with a tradition of extended family, could gain most.

It is understood that the Cabinet has not yet decided on the mix of migrants for its long-term plan. There has been criticism in recent years that it has increasingly turned away from Australia's traditional migrant sources, such as the United Kingdom and Europe.

The Times, April 11th.

TERRORISM AND TERRORISM

A respected Arab academic in Beirut suggested yesterday that the Americans are unconsciously — although in some cases deliberately — preparing their people for a military adventure against Colonel Gadaffi.

"Striking at Gadaffi will solve nothing," he said. "The Israelis are encouraging the Americans to do that because it serves their ends. But do you think that another attack on Libya will stop desperate people hijacking planes and planting bombs? When the Americans deal evenhandedly with the Middle East, these problems will all end."

There is, in truth, a mutual incomprehension between Arabs and Americans that the US-Libyan confrontation is already accentuating. While Americans condemn what they regard as pro-Palestinian or pro-Libyan terrorism, Arabs condemn what they see as pro-Israeli terrorism.

If the killings of 20 innocent Westerners at Rome and Vienna airports were the acts of pro-Libyan "terrorists", they ask, why do the Americans not accept that the killings of hundreds of equally innocent Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila camps were acts of pro-Israeli "terrorists"?

The Times, April 12th.

THE CHURCH AND COMMUNIST SUBVERSION

An Open Letter to His Holiness Pope John Paul II

by HAMISH FRASER

Most Holy Father,

There is not a single person of good will, either within the Church, or outside the fold, who will not applaud the intentions expressed in Your Holiness's letter to the Bishops of Europe concerning the combating of atheism and the re-evangelisation of Europe.[1]

I must however respectfully remind Your Holiness that the arch-atheist V. I. Lenin himself pointed out that *'the preaching of atheism is superfluous and harmful'* to the Communist cause, and that involvement in Communist-inspired initiatives *'will convert Christian workers . . . to atheism a hundred times more effectively than any bald atheist sermons'*.[1,2]

Alas! it was beyond even Lenin's wildest dreams that Catholic Churchmen would one day take the lead in urging their flocks to participate in Communist-inspired initiatives, or that the latter half of the 20th century would see the emergence of a *'liberation theology'* which is simply Revolutionary Marxism in a *'Christian'* guise.

Such however is the reality of ecclesial life today. For now it is episcopally promoted *'Justice and Peace Commissions'* and *'Catholic Development Agencies'* such as CAFOD (England and Wales), SCIAF (Scotland) TROCAIRE (Ireland) and the French *COMITE CATHOLIQUE CONTRE LA FAIM ET POUR LE DEVELOPMENT* which are foremost in mobilising Christian support for Revolutionary Marxist subversive movements which seek to destabilise key areas in the world such as South Africa, the Philippines, Central America, etc., the control of which is indispensable to the further expansion of Soviet imperialism.

God alone knows what are the intentions of the Churchmen responsible. The fact remains, however, that it is episcopal conferences which are today doing precisely what Lenin and his successors everywhere insist is necessary simultaneously to advance the Communist cause and to promote atheism. *Thus, paradoxically it is Churchmen who are today primarily responsible for the promotion of atheism.*

It is certainly not Your Holiness's intention to encourage persistence in such manifest subversion. However, since Your Holiness's letter does not appear to warn against this danger, it is very much to be feared that it may be misinterpreted and used as a pretext for continued, even increased. Christian involvement in activities which, although episcopally promoted, are both Communist-inspired and Communist-directed and deliberately designed simultaneously to increase Communist influence and promote the proliferation of atheism.

Speaking as a former leading Communist who more than 50 years ago became an atheist precisely because of involvement in the kind of activities now being promoted by episcopal conferences, I therefore most humbly beg Your Holiness to realise the need to reaffirm the consistent teaching of the Pontifical Magisterium prior to Vatican II as enunciated in *Divini Redemptoris* in which Pope Pius XI issued the following warning to the Bishops of the universal Church:

> 'VENERABLE BRETHREN, COMMUNISM IS INTRINSICALLY EVIL AND THEREFORE NO ONE WHO DESIRES TO SAVE CHRISTIAN CIVILISATION FROM EXTINCTION SHOULD RENDER IT ASSISTANCE IN ANY ENTERPRISE WHATEVER.'

Most Holy Father, I would most respectfully suggest, not only that the above warning is even more relevant and imperative now than in 1937 when it was first published, but also that, unless Your Holiness's letter to the Bishops of Europe is read within the context of Pope Pius XI's warning, it will inevitably be misinterpreted as a pretext for the continued subversion of society in the name of *'Justice and Peace'* and *'Development'*.

However, in order once and for all to preclude any possibility of such misunderstanding, I would also most respectfully suggest that what is above all necessary is the unequivocal repudiation by Your Holiness of the disastrous 1962 Rome-Moscow Agreement which forbade even the discussion of Communism by the Council Fathers. For it was this Agreement which rendered the Church *'open'* to Socialism/Communism, and it is this *'openness'* which in turn made possible the emergence of that *'liberation theology'* which is now being used to justify Catholic participation in Revolutionary Marxist initiatives which, as in Nicaragua, are calculated to subvert not only the State but also the very Church of God.

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(1) As reported in *The Universe* of January 17th, 1986.

(2) Cf. *Lenin on Religion*, p.21, Martin & Lawrence, London.

THE REAL PRICE OF THE E.E.C.

(from **Newbury Weekly News,** March 20th)

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Joan Lewendon on her letter condemning the scandal of knock-down sales of surplus Common Market beef, butter and wine to Soviet Russia.

An even more flagrant example is flour. our price about 25p a pound, the price to Russia — 5p!

And let us not forget that the EEC is exporting similar subsidised food to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and other Communist countries.

The Common Agricultural Policy adds £7 to the weekly food bill of every British family of four. Furthermore, £4 out of every £10 of the atronomical agricultural budget goes on subsidising these loss-making exports to the Communist bloc.

In fact, figures released by Whitehall in answer to questions put in the House of Commons in July 1984, suggested that the Common Market was subsidising the Soviet economy and war machine by up to £1 billion a year. That was two years ago, since when agricultural costs have soared inexorably, the cost of the food mountains having increased five-fold in the past four years to £6 billion. This the Common Market's own figure for 1986.

No wonder Mr. Gorbachev has done the decent thing and has now condescended to recognise the EEC as a political entity by receiving the Socialist delegation from the European Assembly as guests of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow last December.

Before entering the EEC we were told it was a bulwark against Communism. Now we know better. The Community is really the fairy godmother of the Soviets. The star at the tip of her wand is red, and it conjures up a cornucopia of weekly, monthly and annual goodies of all kinds, most especially butter and — guns.

MARIE ENDEAN,
Secretary, Newbury branch of the British Anti-Common Market Campaign,
The Lodge,
Upper Woolhampton.

FOR FAMILY, COUNTRY AND TRADITION

A new book of the greatest interest and value to Candour readers

When Elizabeth, Lady Freeman, first sent her **TRADITIONALISTS' ANTHOLOGY** for me to read, she said that it was the collection she had made over the years in her commonplace book, and now the times being what they are, she would like to see it printed "for the sake of her grandchildren".

In an earlier Dark Age, it was the monasteries that held and safeguarded the accumulation of wisdom and truth neglected — if not abhorred — by contemporary marauders. Today, when it appears that Shangri-la exists only in the imagination of James Hilton, everybody's grandchildren will probably have to search for it among the forgotten contents of attics and second-hand book-shops, but with minds loaded with Establishment lies, as to ever greater extent they will be, they will not know what to look for unless provided with a key. This anthology of Elizabeth Freeman's choice is just such a key. It contains a collection of gems so excellent in themselves that they "make hungry where most [they] satisfy."

If the miracle we pray for is delayed, and the spiritual and physical vandalism of nations continues, may our children's children find, learn from and profit by the treasures of truth exemplified in this timely strong-book.

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CHUNNEL CORROBORATION

I have had such a great number of letters about the Channel Tunnel that I can't reply to them all personally. Every single one of them is against this infamous project and most ask what they can do to stop it.

One reader wrote to the Prime Minister and received what is evidently a statutory reply: that she is to meet the French President before the end of this month, when "it is hoped that there will be a decision on which scheme, if any, should proceed . . .".

"Negotiations are also taking place with the French Government on the necessary Treaty. If the decision in January is positive, then it will be signed before the end of February. It will, of course, be subject to subsequent endorsement by Parliament through the Hybrid Bill procedure: the Hybrid Bill would be introduced before March".

The letter goes on to say that the "Channel fixed link" is undoubtedly a matter of national importance and the principal of whether there should be one, and if so, of what kind, must be determined by Parliament. "The Hybrid Bill procedure contains every opportunity for those affected to put forward their opinions".

But everybody in this country will be affected, however remotely, by what will be no hybrid, legalistic, abstract measure but a real, geographical transformation. Does anybody really think that those who are against it — undoubtedly the majority — will have every opportunity, or any opportunity at all, to put forward their opinions?

This project has gone forward so rapidly, so furtively and confidently that if (as our rulers still pretend is possible) it were now to be dropped altogether, the effect on the Government and on all the complainant politicians of all parties would be catastrophic, even fatal.

There is no sign that any such sensational outcome is even remotely contemplated. There is every sign, on the contrary, that whatever happens the Link has already been fixed.

With acknowledgement to Peter Simple.

ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY

"The Party System does not consist, as some suppose, of two parties, but of one. If there were two *real* parties, there could be no system . . . In the presence of this inner obstacle a vote becomes about as valuable as a railway ticket when there is a permanent block on the line."

— G. K. Chesterton, **A Short History of England.**

THE CARDINAL AND CONVERSION

Recently we learnt that an old Jew, a leading light of the esteemed Council of Christians and Jews, has been made a Papal Knight of St. Gregory. Sorry, St. Gregory! And we heard also that His Eminence, our Archbishop and Cardinal, Basil Hume — i.e. specifically *Catholic*, not just like *Christians* and Jews, as aforementioned — on the occasion of this award of Papal nobility to this Jew, condemned "ill-considered and insensitive attempt at conversion" of the Jews. What price St. Peter *apres* Pentecost?

Surely, we would think, Cardinal Hume would enthusiastically be the very first to approve of *prudent* and *effective* and, of course, *urgent* attempts to convert the Jews to the truth of Christ. And we must admit that it was only via the *B.B.C.* that we had heard that Cardinal Hume is not energetically and aggressively Apostolic in the field of converting Jews to the Truth.

However, not being entirely dopey, we can correctly estimate when even the B.B.C. can afford to tell the unvarnished truth. Of course, we would have looked silly if at Mass the following Sunday we had had a letter from our Primate condemning the B.B.C. calumny and urging us all to emulate his own vigorous Apostolic action. But being realists, we accept and acknowledge that the B.B.C. has been reporting truly and that we in no way forecast nor anticipate any cancellation of their assertion by Cardinal Hume. And we couldn't say fairer than that, could we? — A. J. P. London.

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